

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 04422 180448Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10

NSC-05 JUSE-00 SY-05 USIA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

DEAE-00 /063 W

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R 180419Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1698

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 4422

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: ESCAPE OF LT. COL SAWAI, WB-74-0015

CHIANG MAI 067 TO DEA HQS WASHDC INFO BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE
BEING REPEATED QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CHIANG MAI 067

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PASS REGIONAL DEA DIRECTOR ADDARIO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PASS DEA SAIC HARRY FULLETT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: ESCAPE OF LT. COL SAWAI, WB-74-0015

1. FORMER PROVINCIAL POLICE LT. COL. SAWAI, ARRESTED 11 JULY
1974 AND CHARGED WITH MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF HEROIN NR. FOUR
(WB-74-0015) ESCAPED FROM CHIANG MAI COURT 14 MARCH 1975.
SAWAI HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO GO TO TOILET AND LAST SEEN LEAVING
COURT AREA IN CAR DESCRIBED BY THAI'S AS QUOTE PLUSH UNQUOTE.
NO DESCRIPTION OR LICENSE.

2. SAWAI INVESTIGATION HAS DRAWN OUT SINCE JULY WITH SPECULA-
TION CASE WOULD BE DISMISSED. HOWEVER, NEW ACTING POLICE
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DIRECTOR DISMISSED SAWAI FROM POLICE AND LATTER TO HAVE BEEN

FORMERLY CHARGED ON DAY OF ESCAPE. THERE IS PROBABILITY
OTHER HIGH LEVEL PROVINCIAL POLICE IN NORTH THAILAND AIDED
SAWAI'S ESCAPE TO PRECLUDE HIS TESTIFYING AGAINST THEM FOR
THEIR INVOLVEMENT.

3. THREE PROVINCIAL POLICEMEN TASKED WITH GUARDING SAWAI WERE
ARRESTED AND NOW BEING QUESTIONED ABOUT ALLOWING HIS
ESCAPE. BANGKOK ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER GAVE FRONT
PAGE HEADLINE COVERAGE TO ESCAPE RECALLING FACT THAT IT
WAS SECOND INSTANCE. (SAWAI ESCAPED FROM TASK FORCE
CUSTODY SHORTLY AFTER 11 JULY RAID, BUT RECAPTURED SAME
DAY.)

4. THAI POLICE OFFICIALS ISSUED FUGITIVE WARRANT FOR
SAWAI AND SPECULATED HE PROBABLY HEADING FOR BURMA.
UNLIKELY SAWAI WOULD CHOOSE BURMA AS SANCTUARY.
HARBIN
UNQUOTE
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: SNAR, TH, (SAWAI)
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